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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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October 17, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HWS*

RE: Field Inspection, Barneys Canyon Mine and Exploration Project,  
M/035/009 and E/035/002, Salt Lake County, Utah

Date of Inspection: 10-17-91  
Time of Inspection: 9:00 a. m. - 12:00 noon  
Conditions: Warm, sunny  
Participants: Bob Ramsey, Bill Dodge, Bill Gunter, Mike Pagel, Kennecott;  
Holland Shepherd, DOGM

Purpose: Inspection of reclamation work performed this fall at the mine site and exploration sites.

The first portion of my visit at the Barney's Canyon site entailed a meeting with Bob Ramsey, Bill Dodge and Bill Gunter. The discussion involved an amendment planned for the Barneys Canyon Mine, to be submitted to the Division at the end of November 91 or early December 91. The operator plans to develop two pits in what is now the BC South and Melco Mine exploration areas. The additional disturbed acreage will approximate 50 acres. The operator has contracted with JBR Consultants to develop the plan for this area.

Mr. Ramsey mentioned that the plan may entail the backfilling of at least one of the pits. I had mentioned to the operator, during an earlier visit, that the Division has been working on a new Slopes and Highwalls Reclamation Policy. The Division gave JBR consultants a draft copy of this policy about two months ago.

Bill Gunter and I conducted the field portion of this inspection. Our first stop was an area used for clay barrow in the construction of the heap leach pads. The operator has regraded the area and respread topsoil material. The area had not been seeded yet. This area consists of about 8 acres of disturbance and is located in steep

terrain. The operator has constructed a small pond at the bottom of the disturbance, next to what appears to be a perennial drainage. The pond will protect the drainage from sediment loading, while plants are becoming established on the slope.

I mentioned to the operator (Mr. Gunter and Mr. Pagel) that the application of slope stabilization techniques would be advisable in this particular location, because of the steep slopes and heavy rainfall that could be expected at the site. We discussed a slope stabilizing technique which would involve applying dozer basins along the contour of the slope at offset intervals, rather than constructed in continuous sequence across the slope. This would aid in the dissipation of hydrologic energy and help to establish microsites along the slope where moisture would accumulate and accelerate plant establishment.

I also mentioned to the operator (Mr. Gunter and Mr. Pagel), that a culvert placed at the top of the pond's impounding structure should be removed at final reclamation and a well riprapped trench/spillway left to replace it. The spillway should be designed to pass a rainfall event of significant size (100 year event).

The next portion of this visit involved an inspection of the Silica Knob and Harker Canyon exploration projects. Portions of these projects were reclaimed recently this month. According to Bill Gunter, approximately 7-8 acres have been reclaimed. The acreage consists mostly of exploration roads. All of the disturbance involving the Silica Knob site has been reclaimed.

The operator has performed an excellent job in reclaiming the disturbed areas. The exploration roads, originally established in very steep terrain, have been recontoured back to original grade. The reclamation work was performed with a track mounted backhoe. The operator was able to pull woody debris and rocks back onto the disturbed area, providing for a very rough surface texture. This will aid substantially in preventing erosion and the enhancement of plant growth, both shrub and non-woody species.

These sites have been mulched and hand broadcast seeded. The operator has used a straw mulch, which was also applied by hand. The mulch will help in the establishment of a short term plant cover, which will help to stabilize the site.

Hunter impacts may become a problem on the recently reclaimed areas if hunters are allowed access onto some of these sites. Bill Gunter indicated that they had already discovered that hunters had driven on one of the reclaimed sites. We met a Mr.

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Keith Hansen on site, Kennecott's Land Manager. He indicated that hunters who drew permits to hunt on Kennecott property would be asked to stay off recently reclaimed areas.

I mentioned to Bill Gunter that the Division would look for a status report at the beginning of the new year describing the total amount of disturbed acreage vs reclaimed acreage on the exploration site. This would also include any acreage removed from exploration status as a result of placement under the mining permit.

jb  
cc: Wayne Hedberg  
M035009